

**Locust Grove**  
**CH-605**  
**Hughesville vic.**  
**Public**

**circa 1878**

Locust Grove, a 2 ½ story three bay, double pile frame dwelling, is a relatively rare example of Italianate-inspired architecture in Charles County. Although modest in execution, these features include tall, narrow first and second story windows, a wooden door with full arched panels, and arched windows in the attic story. This side passage dwelling with a T-addition to the rear is also one of the earliest documented examples of the late nineteenth century center gable that became such a common feature of the Charles County landscape.

New construction in Charles County virtually came in a standstill during the Civil War and did not resume again in any large scale until the last decade of the nineteenth century. Built circa 1878 by Henry L. Mudd Jr, Locust Grove is one of the only documented houses in Charles County known to have been built during the 1870's.

Inventory No. CH-605

**1. Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)

historic	Locust Grove
other	Dwelling, 4200 Gardiner Road

## 2. Location

street and number	4200 Gardiner Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
city, town	Hughesville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	vicinity
county	Charles		

**3. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Isaak Walton League/Charles County Chapter				
street and number	P.O. Box 248			telephone	301-274-3526
city, town	Hughesville	state	MD	zip code	20637

#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	16-21-92
city, town	LaPlata	liber	1476 folio 180

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
district	public	agriculture	Contributing
x building(s)	private	commerce/trade	Noncontributing
structure	x both	defense	1
site		domestic	
object		x education	7
		funerary	
		government	1
		health care	7
		industry	
		landscape	
		recreation/culture	
		religion	
		social	
		transportation	
		work in progress	
		unknown	
		vacant/not in use	
		other:	
			buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-605

### Condition

_____ excellent	_____ deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	_____ ruins
_____ fair	_____ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Locust Grove is located in the northeastern section of Charles County on the south side of Gardiner Road. The dwelling is situated on a rise above Zekiah Swamp to the east and Jordan Swamp to the west. Locust Grove is a 2 1/2 story, three bay frame, double pile dwelling with a center gable façade that was built in 1878. The building is distinguished by modest Italianate details including narrow rectangular windows in the first and second floors and decorative arched windows in the attic story.

The 141 acre farm contains several non-contributing resources including three modern tobacco barns and a silo. Currently the site is the headquarters for the Southern Maryland Outdoor Education Center and includes two structures specifically used for this purpose. These include a new frame and concrete block education center and an education pavillion, which was refitted from a former dog kennel.

The house rests on a continuous brick foundation laid in American bond. Asbestos shingles currently sheath the frame construction. The side gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is broken by a single brick chimney with a corbeled cap. The roof meets the eave wall with a molded wood cornice. Returning eaves are found on the gable ends.

The façade is distinguished by a central gable containing an Italianate-style arched window opening fitted with a rectangular replacement 1/1 light double-hung metal window. A corresponding front gable intersects the hipped full length first floor porch which is supported by four chamfered square posts resting on a replaced poured concrete floor. The principal entrance is located near the north elevation suggesting a side passage plan. The single paneled door features a rectangular transom and sidelights. To the left of the door are situated two narrow rectangular replacement sash double-hung metal 1/1 windows with metal surrounds. Three identical windows appear on the corresponding second story bays.

The south elevation features symmetrically placed first and second story windows of the same composition as found on the façade. A central arched, Italianate inspired window opening is located in the attic story and is also fitted with a replacement rectangular window. A similar fenestration is found in the north elevation but is modified by first and second story windows grouped on the western end of the gable wall, probably to accommodate an interior hall and stair.

Projecting from the rear western elevation is a centered cross-gabled two-story wing. An exterior brick chimney flue is positioned on the gable wall. Single, centered replacement windows are found on the southern elevation of this wing. The northern exposure includes a one-story shed addition.

### OUTBUILDINGS

The site features six structures that do not contribute to the buildings overall historical significance. These include a circa 1940-50 silo and three large vertical board, gambrel roof tobacco barns. All three barns have poured concrete foundations.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-605

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
1600-1699	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
1700-1799	archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
x 1800-1899	x architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
1900-1999	art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
2000-	commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
Specific dates 1878		Architect		Unknown	
Construction dates 1878		Builder		Unknown	

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Locust Grove is a relatively rare example of Italiante-inspired architecture in Charles County. Although modest in execution, these features include tall, narrow first and second story windows, a wood door with full arched panels, and full arched windows in the attic story. It is also one of the earliest documented examples of the late nineteenth century center gable that became such a common feature of the Charles County landscape.

Locust Grove is located on what was known as "Jordan". In 1877 the property was surveyed by the heirs of Henry L. Mudd, Sr. and in the following year sold to Henry L. Mudd, Jr. By 1914 it was acquired by George Adams and in 1934 Locust Grove came into the possession of the Gardiner family. The house and surrounding land is currently in the possession of the Isaak Walton League whose mission is "to raise public awareness of cultural and environmental significance of Zekiah's Swamp". In 1990 they constructed and opened the Southern Maryland Outdoor Education Center, a frame and concrete block facility which houses educational programs.

While the Italiante style was popular in the United States from 1840-1885, Charles County has few surviving examples of its influence on the architectural landscape. The aftermath of the Civil War left many farms in Southern Maryland impoverished. As a result few buildings were constructed during the 1860's and 70's.

In form, Locust Grove departs from the building tradition that continued up until the Civil War. Most notably, this is the earliest documented example of the center gable which made its appearance in the national vernacular building tradition during the 1870's. Although this would eventually dominate Charles County's architectural landscape, documented examples do not appear in Charles County with any intensity until the late 1880's.

Another shift is the placement of the service wing. Before the Civil War, it was most common to find a secondary wing off the gable end. Here we see the placement fully in the rear of the dwelling and hidden from view to approaching visitors.

Despite these changes, Locust Grove retains a side passage double-parlor plan which was common before the Civil War.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-605

Name Locust Grove

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

---

Locust Grove is currently well maintained and although much of the original materials including windows and wall treatments have been lost, essentially the historic plan and overall character remain intact. As an early example of post-Civil War architecture in Charles County, it has the potential to yield significant information about change and continuity in local building traditions during this time period.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

Inventory No. CH-605

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property 141.0297  
Acreage of historical setting 5  
Quadrangle name Hughesville Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 4200 Gardiner Road is associated with Charles County Property Map 16, Grid 21, Parcel 92.

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title	Cathy Currey, Historic Site Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Department	date	9/4/2000
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	La Plata	state MD	zipcode 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-605

Section 8 Page 1

Locust Grove  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

---

**Chain of title:**

June 8, 1878	Heirs of Henry L. Mudd, Sr. to Henry L. Mudd, Jr. Land known as "Jordan". <b>359 a.</b> as surveyed by H.C. Page December 8, 1877. Land previously acquired by John Dyer, heir of Thomas B. Dyer. <b>BGS 3 Folio 234</b>
October 8, 1912	Pauline Mudd, et al. (heirs of Henry L. Mudd) to Ernest Weigle. <b>359 a.</b> <b>BGS 3 Folio 204</b>
June 8, 1914	To John Aussin, New Jersey from Ernest Weigle, Washington D.C. <b>359 a.</b> <b>HCC 27 Folio 286</b>
June 8, 1914	To George Adams from John Aussin. <b>359 a.</b> <b>HCC 27 Folio 288</b>
May 11, 1934	To William Ralph and Mary Imogene Gardiner from George W. Adams. <b>259 a.</b> <b>WMA 58 Folio 636</b>
October 8, 1945	To Charles R. and Beatrice W. Stoddard of NY from William Ralph and Mary Imogene Gardiner. <b>259 a.</b> <b>WMA 82 Folio 244</b>
December 10, 1946	To Edward W. and Catherine Mandley, Lloyd G. and Dorothy M. Dixon joint tenants from Charles R. and Beatrice W. Stoddard. <b>259 a.</b> "Locust Grove". Dixon's relinquish their share (Liber 92 Folio 23.) <b>Liber 84 Folio 277</b>
May 21, 1976	To Ronald and Mary Mandley from Catherine Mandley, et al. Except subdivided lots totaling 118 acres. <b>Liber 440 Folio 75</b>
June 19, 1990	To Izaak Walton League from Mary P. Mandley <b>141 acres, "Locust Grove".</b> <b>Liber 1476 Folio 180</b>

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-605

Section 9 Page 1

Locust Grove  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

---

**Major Bibliographic References:**

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.  
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.  
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.



RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/12/09

North arrow:



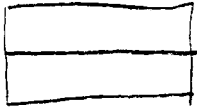
Name: LOCUST GROVE

Address: 4200 Gardiner Rd.

CH - 605

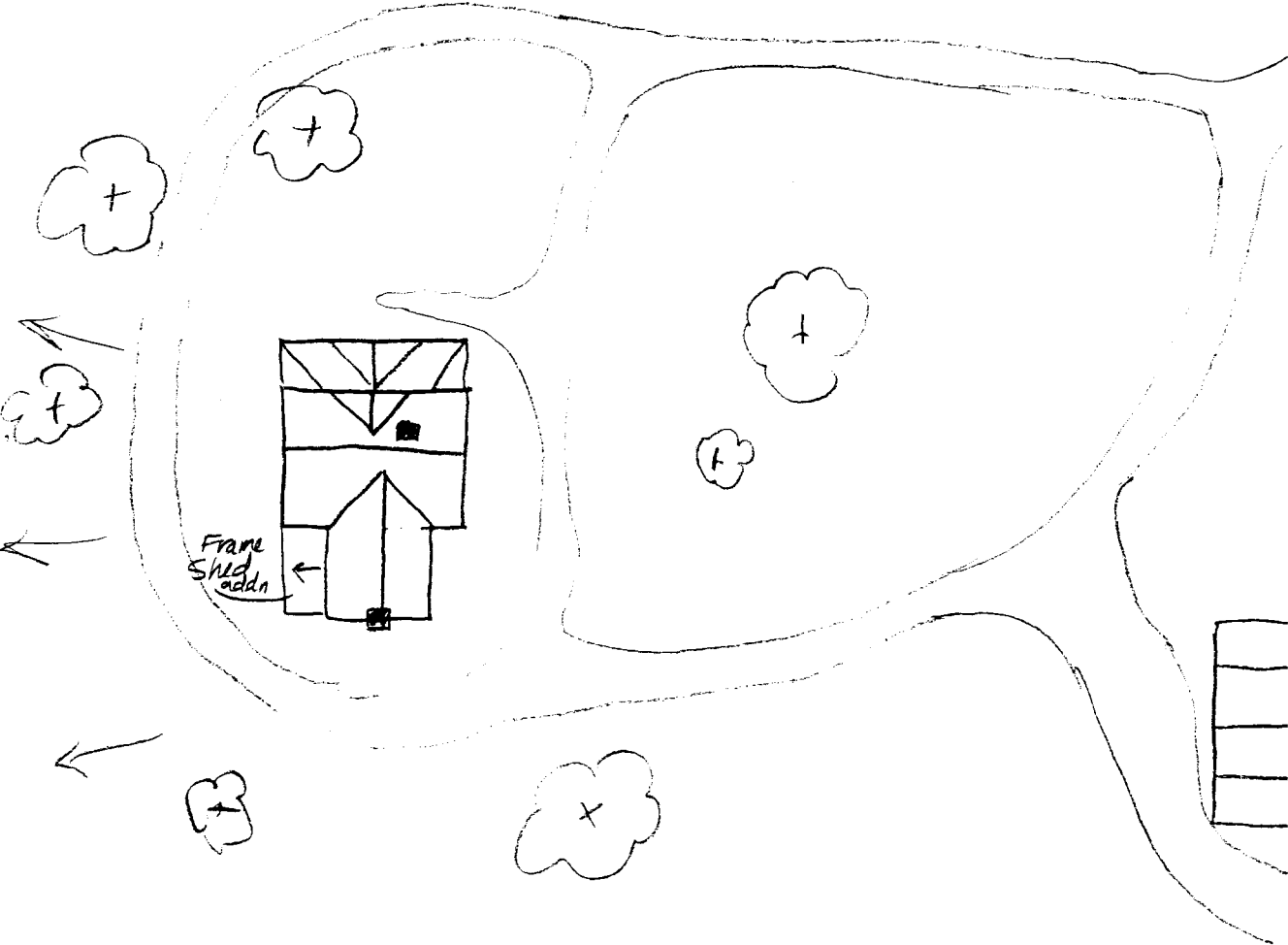
Charles County, Maryland

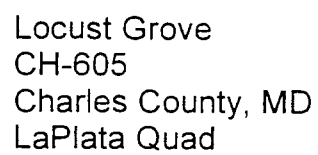
Waldorf X Vicinity



Education  
Pavillion

slopes down to swamp





LaPlata Quad



CH-605

LOCUST GROVE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

11/99

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SOUTHWEST

1 OF 4



CH - 605

LOCUST GROVE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

11/99

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING NORTHEAST

2 OF 4



CH-605

LOCUST GROVE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K. G. SMITH

11/99

MARYLAND SHPO

BARN, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

3 OF 4





CH-605

LOCUST GROVE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

11/99

MARYLAND SHPO

PAVILLION. LOOKING SE

4 OF 4